NUMB. CCXLVIII.

The SPECTATOR.

Maxime Officii eſt ut quiſque maxime opis indigeat ita ei potiſſimum opitulari. Tull.

Friday, December 14. 1711.

THERE are none who deſerve Superiority over others in the Eſteem of Mankind, who do not make it their Endeavour to be beneficial to Society; upon all Occaſions which their Circumſtances of Life can adminiſter, do not take unfeign'd Pleaſure in conferring Benefits of one Kind or other. Thoſe whoſe great Parts and high Birth have placed them in conſpicuous Stations of Life, are indiſpenſibly obliged to ſome noble Inclinations for the Service of Mankind, or elſe ſuch Advantages become Misfortunes, and Shade and Privacy are a more eligible Station. Where Opportunities and Inclinations are given to the ſame Perſon, we ſometimes meet with Inſtances of Virtue, which ſo dazzle our Imaginations, that we look with Scorn on all the leſſer Scenes of Life we may our ſelves be capable to practiſe. But this is a vicious Way of Thinking; and it bears ſome Spice of romantick Madneſs for a Man to imagine that he muſt be ambitious, or ſeek Adventures, to be able to do great Actions. It is in every Man's Power in the World who is above meer Poverty, not only to do Things worthy but heroick. The great Foundation of every Virtue is Self-Denial; and there is no one of the Neceſſities of Life, but has Opportunities of exerciſing that noble Quality, and doing as much as his Circumſtances will bear for the Eaſe and Convenience of other Men; and he who does more than ordinarily Men practiſe upon ſuch Occaſions as occur in his Life, deſerves the Value of his Friends as if he had done Enterprizes which are uſually attended with the higheſt Glory. Men of a publick Spirit differ rather in their Circumſtances than their Virtue; and the Man who does his Duty in a low Station, is more an Heroe than he who omits any worthy Action he is able to accompliſh in a great one. It is not many Years ago that *Lapirius*, in Wrong of his elder Brother, came to a great Eſtate by Gift of his Father, by reaſon of the diſſolute Behaviour of the Firſt-born. Shame and Contrition reformed the Life of the unthinking Youth, and he became as remarkable for his good Qualities as formerly for his Errors. The Father, who obſerved his Brother's Amendment, ſent him on a New-Year's Day in the Morning the following Letter.

Honoured Brother,

'Enclоſe to you the Deeds whereby my Father 'gave me this Houſe and Land: Had he lived 'till now he would not have beſtowed it in that 'Manner; he took it from the Man you were, 'and I reſtore it to the Man you are. I am,

SIR,

Your affectionate Brother and humble Servant,

P. T.

As great and exalted Spirits undertake the Purſuit of hazardous Actions for the Good of others, at the ſame Time gratifying their Paſſion for Glory; ſo do worthy Minds in the domeſtick Way of Life deny themſelves many Advantages, to ſatisfy a generous Benevolence which they bear to their Friends oppreſſed with Diſtreſſes and Calamities. Such Natures one may call Stores of Providence, which are actuated by a ſecret celeſtial Influence to undervalue the ordinary Gratifications of Wealth, to give Comfort to an Heart loaded with Affliction, to ſave a falling Family, to preſerve a Branch of Trade in their Neighbourhood, and give Work to the Induſtrious, preſerve the Portion of the helpleſs Infant, and raiſe the Head of the mourning Father. People whoſe Hearts are wholly bent towards Pleaſure, or intent upon Gain, never hear of the noble Occurrences among Men of Induſtry and Humanity. It would look like a City Romance, to tell them of the generous Merchant who the other Day ſent this Billet to an eminent Trader under Difficulties to ſupport himſelf, in whoſe Fall many hundreds beſides himſelf had periſhed; but becauſe I think there is more Spirit and true Gallantry in it than in any Letter I have ever read from *Strephon* to *Phillis*, I ſhall inſert it even in the mercantile honeſt Stile in which it was ſent.

SIR,

'I Have heard of the Caſualties which have involved you in extreme Diſtreſs at this Time; 'and knowing you to be a Man of great Good-nature, Induſtry, and Probity, have reſolved to 'ſtand by you. Be of good Chear, the Bearer 'brings with him five thouſand Pounds, and has 'my Order to anſwer your drawing as much more 'on my Account. I did this in Haſte, for Fear I 'ſhould come too late for your Relief; but you 'may value your ſelf with me to the Sum of fifty 'thouſand Pounds; for I can very chearfully run 'the Hazard of being ſo much leſs rich than I am 'now, to ſave an honeſt Man whom I love.

Your Friend and Servant,

W. P.

I think there is somewhere in *Montagne* Mention made of a Family-Book, wherein all the Occurrences that happened from one Generation of that House to another were recorded. Were there such a Method in the Families which are concerned in this Generosity, it would be an hard Task for the greatest in *Europe* to give in their own, an Instance of a Benefit better placed, or conferred with a more graceful Air. It has been heretofore urged, how barbarous and inhuman is any unjust Step made to the Disadvantage of a Trader; and by how much such an Act towards him is detestable, by so much an Act of Kindness to him is laudable. I remember to have heard a Bencher of the *Temple* tell a Story of a Tradition in their House, where they had formerly a Custom of chusing Kings for such a Season, and allowing him his Expences at the Charge of the Society: One of our Kings, said my Friend, carried his royal Inclination a little too far, and there was a Committee ordered to look into the Management of his Treasury. Among other things it appeared, that his Majesty walking *incog.* in the Cloyster, had over-heard a poor Man say to another, Such a small Sum would make me the happiest Man in the World. The King out of his royal Compassion privately enquired into his Character, and finding him a proper Object of Charity, sent him the Money. When the Committee read their Report, the House passed his Accompts with a Plaudite without further Examination, upon Recital of this Article in them,

	l.	s.	d.
For making a Man happy,	10	00	00

ADVERTISEMENTS.

There is now printing by Subscription two Volumes of the SPECTATORS *on a large Character in Octavo; the Price of the two Vols. well Bound and Gilt, two Guineas. Those who are inclined to subscribe, are desired to make their first Payments to J. Tonson, Bookseller, in the Strand; the Books being so near finished, that they will certainly be ready for the Subscribers at or before Christmas next.*

The Third and Fourth Volumes of the LUCUBRATIONS *of Isaac Bickerstaff, Esq; are ready to be delivered at the same Place.*

N B. The Author desires that such Gentlemen who have not received their Books for which they have subscribed, would be pleased to signify the same to Mr. Tonson.

By Her Majesty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane, this present Friday, being the 14th Day of December, will be performed the last new Comedy, call'd, The Wife's Relief: or, The Husband's Cure. By her Majesty's Command no Persons are to be admitted behind the Scenes.

The Performance of Musick which was designed this Day at Mr. Clayton's House in York-Buildings, by Reason of the Indisposition of one of the Performers, is delay'd to a further Day, of which there shall be Notice in this Paper.

Whereas a Violin was left in a Hackney-Coach that took up a Fare at the Stage Gate of the Hay-Market on Saturday the 8th Instant at Night, and set them down in Bosswell-Court near Lincoln's-Inn. Whoever will bring it to Mr. Pepusch's House in Bosswell-Court shall receive 20 s. or if the Coachman will bring word where it is, so'd or pawn'd, he shall be rewarded for his Pains.

The principal and most valuable Pictures belonging to the late Sergeant Streeter, viz. Guido, Guercino de Cento, P. P. Rubins, Roland Savory, Stenwick, the Velvet Brueghel, Rundrinck, divers curious Flower-Pieces of Van Teelen, Ver Brugen, noble large Looking-glasses finely painted with Flowers and Ornaments by Van Zoon, with other high finish'd Pieces of his, will be sold by Auction this present Friday the 14th of this Instant December. The Sale will begin exactly at 1 in the Afternoon, at his late Dwelling-house in Gerard-street, Sohoe. The Collection may be seen this Day. Catalogues to be had gratis at the Place above-named. Note, This Collection is to be sold for the Benefit of his Children, so that all things must be disposed of.

Wines to be sold by Retail.

Excellent Red and White Port, and Red White Lisbon, being neat Wines as they came from the G the best Growth in Portugal. To be sold by the Importer in in Brabant-Court in Philpot-Lane, viz. Red and White Gallon, or 18 l. per Hhd. Red and White Lisbon at 55 6 or 16 l. per Hhd. Attendance will be given every Day till

BRANDY BY RETAIL.

At a Vault in Wiggen's-Key Gateway, opp to the Red-Lyon in Thames-street, is a parcel of extraor neat, as they are imported by the last Fleet from Porta inferiour to French, at 11 s. a Gallon: No less Quantity lon. Attendance is daily given from 9 to 12, and Clock till all is sold. N. B. At both Ends of the Gateway Board directing to the Brandy-Vault.

Archibald Vans, Card-maker, living at the Arms in Gerard-street by Princes-street near Leister-fields, to be one of the best Card-makers, having a Quantity of Playing-Cards made before the great Imposition, will Reasonable Rates.

Messieurs Brook and Hellier, Merchants, Notice, That their Portugal Wines are sold in their natural at the following Places, viz. at the Bear Tavern in the the Fleece Tavern in Bridges-street near the Play-house, at the Posts and Rummer at Charing-Cross, the Eagle and Child, in house, in Bridges street, the Royal-Hospital Coffee-house at wich, (note, there is another Way to come to the Hous going through the Coffee-Room) the Rising Sun, an Eating at the Back-Gate of Clement's-Inn, the White Hart, in house, the Corner of Chancery-lane in Holborn, John's Coffee in Fulwood's-Rents, the Cellars in the Little Piazza in Cov den, at Oakley's Coffee house in Newgate-Market, and only under the Ship in Prince's-street. Note, Their and Vaults are scituated as follows: The Horn Tavern in Yard, the Green Dragon in Gray's-Inn-Lane, the Temple Fleet street, the Crown Tavern in Bread-street: The Dog-Tavern Yard, Billingsgate, in Freeman's Yard in Cor the Middle-street, York Buildings, and under St. James's house. None of the said Vaults having been shut up, same has been industriously reported. Note, they have Quantities of Portugal Wines just landed. Note also, ordinary Wines are sold to Mr. Collins of Westminster, N. B. There is a convenient Place fitted up in Freeman's Yard will be opened on Monday the 17th of December; wher good Accommodation for Eating as well as Drinking, and 4 Fires kept in the Vaults under St. James's Market-House.

Yesterday was published,

The Memorable Things of Socrates: W by Xenophon, in Five Books. Translated into English. are prefixed the Life of Socrates: From the French of M pentier, a Member of the French Academy. And the Li phon, Collected from several Authors. With some Writings. By E. Bisse, Author of the Art of Poetry. G. Sawbridge, at the Three Golden Flowerde-Lys in and sold by J. Woodward in Scalding-Alley near the Bound 6 s.

The Compleat Gamester; or, Instructions to play at all Manner of usual and most gentile Games, Cards, Dice, Billiards, Trucks, Bowls, or Chess; also Mysteries of Riding, Racing, Archery, and Cock which is added the Game at Basset; with a Discourse of general, the Description of a Gaming Ordinary, and the of a Gamester, with a Song on the Game at Piquet. ed by the most experienc'd Masters. Printed for Charles the Gun at the West End of St. Paul's Church. Price

A Discourse of foreign War, with Reason and an Answer to those Reasons, as also an Account of all ations upon this Kingdom from the Conquest to the Reign of Queen Elizabeth, and of the Confederacy to the End of the Reign of the said Queen. By Sir Baronet. Sold by E. and G. Mortlock, at the Phœnick in Church-yard.

Just published,

The last new Comedy, call'd, The Wife's lief; or, the Husband's Cure. By Mr. Charles Johnson. Jacob Tonson at Shakespear's Head over against Katherine the Strand.

Consumptions of all sorts radically Cured, by a Elixir peculiarly invented for that Disease; its wonderful sufficiently explodes the Erroneous Opinion, that Consumptions are incurable, since it absolutely retrieves the Patient, though meer Skeleton; quickly takes off all the Symptoms, as Cough, ness, Wheezing, shortness of Breath, Pain or Weight in the Bre ting of Blood, soreness of the Stomach, Throat or Wind-pipe, terrhs or Defluxions of sharp Rhume, and all Phtisical and affects, Hectick Feaver, &c. perfectly cures all inward Ulc stores all inward Wastings, Weakness and decay of Nature Balsamic and Strengthning beyond Comparison; it effectually re the first Principle, or cause of Consumptions, rectifying the of Stomach and first Passages, creating an Appetite, promoting Digestion, reducing the vicious Ferment of the Blood and Juices reciting the Acrid Salts that erode the Lungs, certainly healing therein, and infallibly curing all sorts of Consumptions, how bad, in a very short time to a Miracle. Price 3 s. 6 d. Directions. Sold only at Mr. Osborn's Toyshop at the Rose and under St. Dunstan's Church in Fleetstreet.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertisements are taken as also by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beaufort-Buildings* the *Strand*.